

Hanna Introduces Bill to Rename Geneva Post Office

in Honor of Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione

Geneva-native Riccione was killed in 1967 in South Vietnam

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Richard Hanna (R, C, I-Barneveld) today introduced legislation to rename a Geneva Post Office in honor of a Geneva, N.Y. native who was killed in South Vietnam nearly 44 years ago.

Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione was 20 years-old when he volunteered to join the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Riccione, a former Geneva High School student, was killed in action in Quang Tin province in South Vietnam on Sept. 27, 1967 while helping evacuate wounded soldiers after a fierce battle with North Vietnamese troops.

“Cpl. Riccione sacrificed his life while trying to aide a wounded comrade,” Hanna said. “Renaming his hometown postal facility after him is a small gesture, but it is long overdue. It will be a permanent display for future generations to remember Cpl. Riccione and his heroic actions.”

Major General E.M. Strong, then Adjutant General of the 101st Airborn’s 1st Brigade, described Riccione’s actions in an October 1967 account of what took place the day Riccione died:

“PVT Riccione, with complete disregard for his own safety, rushed from his covered position through the vicious hail of enemy fire to aid his wounded comrade. He continuously exposed himself to the withering hail of enemy fire, standing up at times, to place effective fire on enemy positions. When his weapon was struck by an enemy bullet and demolished, he undauntedly picked up a machine gun and charged an enemy bunker, killing two enemy soldiers. Shortly after, PVT Riccione was mortally wounded while helping to evacuate wounded personnel while

under heavy enemy fire. PVT Riccione's devotion to duty and personal courage, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army."

Hanna said the entire New York Congressional Delegation swiftly signed on to his legislation to rename the postal facility in honor of Riccione.

While Riccione held the rank of Private at the time of his death, Major General Strong recommended that he posthumously be promoted to Corporal and be awarded the Bronze Star Medal with V Device and the Bronze Star Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster.

The bill would rename the post office, located at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, the Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office.

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